

To Expand Recreation Program

Township Offers Hand To City Park Dept.

S JAN 13 1982

By F.I. GOLDHABER
Star Staff Writer

The Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department would like to fill the gap created by the elimination of Vigo County School Corporation's summer recreation program.

The replacement program will be supported by funds from the Harrison Township's revenue sharing fund.

At a meeting Tuesday evening, the Harrison Township trustee and advisory board approved appropriation of \$35,000 to support an expansion of the park department recreation program.

The Park and Recreation Board of Directors had approved resolutions requesting the \$35,000 in revenue sharing funds from the township to finance the programs during a regular meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The money would be used to provide an arts and crafts center at Deming Park which would offer programs all year long, park department staff told the board Tuesday.

It is the first time the park department will be offering a year-round recreational program, according to parks Supt. Patrick Ralston.

About \$3,500 of the money would be used to renovate an unused tool shed in Deming Park. The building would

be used as an arts and crafts center and would be equipped with a potter's wheel and kiln, darkroom equipment and other materials.

The center would be staffed throughout the year. Classes in pottery, arts and crafts and photography would be offered, Ralston said.

An additional \$22,000 from the revenue sharing money would be used to hire about 25 more seasonal employees. This would more than double the money currently available for salaries of part-time, summer staff.

The department hopes to start something which can grow with the funds from the township, Ralston told the board.

The school corporation will no longer sponsor its summer recreation program in 1982. The program was cut from the 1982 budget because of the corporation's financial difficulties.

The park department program replacing it is "a good example of what two governmental agencies can do," Ralston said. The year-round program "would be impossible to do without the money from the Harrison Township Trustee's office."

In other business, Tuesday, the park board:

— Approved an agreement with the

Sanitary District of Vigo County to maintain Lost Creek and the Southeast Drainage Project.

The park department will mow Lost Creek and Southeast Drainage Projects, remove all trash and debris, re-seed areas, re-erect signs, and repair all washes and guardrails along ditches.

The sanitary district will pay the park department \$40,000 a year for the work, and will also purchase materials needed for repairing the washes and provide a side-arm mowing tractor for a \$1 per year lease.

The park department will hire two full-time employees to be paid \$11,000 a year apiece; add \$1,500 to the salary of the maintenance director to compensate for the extra supervisory duties, and purchase a tractor for \$11,000, according to the agreement. The salary changes must be approved by the city council. An additional \$3,000 will be spent for gasoline and \$2,500 for equipment repairs, under the agreement.

The new employees will be able to work for the department when not maintaining the sanitary district property, Ralston told the board. The tractor also would be available for the department's use.

Currently, the sanitary district is

contracting with a private firm for the mowing, Ralston said.

— Awarded bids for golf course fertilizer. Turf Specialties, Ft. Wayne, was awarded the contract for wet chemicals with a low bid of \$10,971; and O.M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, was awarded the contract for dry chemicals for a low bid of \$24,374.

— Amended the department Comprehensive Plan to include improvements at Curtis Gilbert Park. The park needs renovation of the restroom and lighting system, landscaping and additional playground equipment, which will cost about \$50,000, park officials said.

— Passed a resolution asking the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment to fund the Gilbert Park improvements. The park is within the redevelopment department's Central Eastside Project area.

— Asked the redevelopment department to finance repairs to the roof of the Charles T. Hyde Community Center at Washington Park and installation of a restroom on the main floor of the center.

— Reelected two officers who served in 1981 — President Kenneth Coy and Secretary William Hamilton. Eugene Verostko was elected vice president.

Parks & Recreation Community Affairs File,
(Vigo Co.)
FEB 12 1992

No park department move, Ralston says

Terre Haute Park and Recreation Superintendent Patrick Ralston has said the park department will not move its offices to the Charles T. Hyte Community Center.

Rumors had circulated for months indicating the park department was pondering the idea of moving to the southside building.

While admitting he had considered the possibility of such a move, Ralston said, "I can categorically say those rumors are untrue."

Ralston confirmed the land and building where the Hyte Center is located is owned by the city's park department.

The city, according to Ralston, leased the land and building to the Hyte Center Board for 25 years.

Marsha Washington, executive director of the center, said the lease runs until 1993.

Ms. Washington said she had also heard rumors about the park

department's wanting to move to the center.

However, she added, those rumors are months old, and there has been no mention of the move in recent months.

The city, Ms. Washington added, provides Federal Revenue Sharing Funds to operate the center. Those funds provide for maintenance, utilities and for the salary of one janitor.

Bids for the restrooms will be opened at 1 p.m., Tuesday.

Members of the Hyte Center board of directors include: Louis Ross, president; Charles Dicken, vice president; Dr. Fred Draper, treasurer, Naomi Moore, Marie Alexander, Alfrieda Buckner, Hermaine Cherry, Beverly Cooper, Gary Cooper, Dr. Winton Jones, Mary Kay, Judge James Lewis, Robert L. Russell, Charles Session and Hollis J. Thomas.

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Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co.)

County To 'Get Tough' On Vandalism In Vigo Parks

S MAR 30 1982

The Vigo County Park Department, with the cooperation of the sheriff, has announced a get-tough policy toward persons who abuse county park property.

Judge Robert Brown made that policy known on Monday in Vigo County Court in connection with the sentencing of Russell Hopkins, 21, and John O'Donnell, 20. The pair entered pleas of guilty to charges of criminal trespass in connection with an incident at Hawthorn Park.

After the prosecutor's office recommended suspended sentences for Hopkins and O'Donnell, Judge Brown fined each man \$500 plus \$50 in court costs, and suspended the fines.

In making the announcement of the "get tough" policy, Brown noted "that instances of damage to the parks will be vigorously prosecuted."

The pair was directed to perform 120 hours of community service for the park department.

In other county court news Charles R. Woods, 26, 1414 Plum St., was directed to perform 1,000 hours of community service as part of his sentence after being judged guilty on three counts of marijuana-related charges.

Woods was charged with three sep-

arate counts of dealing in marijuana.

One misdemeanor conviction resulted in a \$500 fine and a one-year prison term. The sentence on the other misdemeanor was a \$1,000 fine and one year in prison. Woods was sentenced to prison for two years and fined \$1,000 on the felony charge.

Judge Brown suspended the fines and confinements.

In addition to the community service work, Woods will be on strict probation for three years, must attend the alcohol and drug service program and make restitution to the police department for funds used to make purchases in connection with this case.

Gerald M. Dix, Jr., 29, 520 Osborne, was fined \$250 plus \$50 in court costs on a charge of possession of hashish. The fine was suspended.

Rosemary Montgomery, 23, 3105 N. 17th St., entered a plea of innocent to charges of driving while intoxicated, public intoxication and disregarding an automatic signal. She will stand trial June 8.

Thomas R. Johnson, 18, R.R. 24, charged with driving while intoxicated and driving to the left of center will be arraigned April 12.

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Parks' first quarter income rises 65%

The Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department's income was \$40,755 in the first quarter of 1982, a 65 percent increase over the same period in 1981. Last year's first quarter income was \$24,607.

Park Superintendent Pat Ralston attributed the jump to increased sales of season golf tickets.

The department also is looking for new means to generate funds. One such way would be to participate in a state program to offer amusement park tickets at discount rates, with the local park system receiving 25 cents for each ticket sold.

Tickets will be sold for five amusement parks: King's Island, Sea

World, Cedar Point, Marriott's Great America and Six Flags. Savings will range from \$1.95 to \$4.26, depending on the park.

All profits will be placed in the city's recreation budget to help fund future recreation programs.

Tickets should be available some time next month at the park department office in City Hall.

The department also will submit an ordinance to the City Council which would allow it to charge a \$5 fee for those using metal detectors in parks and public ways. The money would be put in the department's general fund and used to repair damage done to the parks by the detector users.

Park & Recreation, Vigo CO

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Handicapped (J.H.) *Community Affairs File* *Parks & Recreation*
Handicapped served by park program

For the first time, the city's park and recreation department has a summer program devoted to a "special population" — the physically and mentally handicapped.

Each day, groups from various agencies use the Sheridan Park pool from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and are then transported to Spencer F. Ball Park for the afternoon. Spencer Ball Park is handicapped-accessible for those who use wheel chairs.

Participating agencies include the Katherine Hamilton MR House; the

Association for Retarded Children; Happiness Bag Adult and Day Care Center; Spectrum I and II; and United Cerebral Palsy.

Most participants are children, although some adults are involved, Diane Stephens, director, said.

Instructional staff involved with the regular summer program assist Ms. Stephens in various activities.

Stephens said that a program for senior citizens is also being organized, and should begin by July 1.

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Park & Recreation Community Affairs File
(Vigo Co)

Park board seeking hikes

Vigo County Park and Recreation Department board members have recommended pay increases of 7.5 percent for employees for next year.

Keith Ruble, park superintendent, said the salary increase recommendation is subject to approval of the county council during budget sessions scheduled for August.

In other matters during the regular meeting, board members took under advisement bids for construction of a new well and 10 by 10 foot building at Prairie Creek Park.

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The low bid of \$19,976.25 was submitted by Coveleske Well Drilling Co., Terre Haute.

Ruble said the bid will be awarded after it is reviewed by the county attorney's office.

The new well, Ruble said, should resolve water problems the park has encountered as the result of increased visitors at the park and overnight camping.

A sign on U.S. 41 about four miles south of the State Police Post gives motorists directions to the park.

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Park Board panel proposes \$1.13 million budget for '83

Community Affairs File

The Terre Haute Park Department will seek approval of a proposed \$1.13 million budget for 1983, according to discussion at the park board meeting Tuesday.

The proposed budget is 10 percent higher than the 1982 budget.

The city is aiming for a 4 percent ceiling on departmental budget increases, Comptroller Tharon Geckeler said, but possible utility rate increases may make that ceiling unrealistic.

Parks superintendent Pat Ralston said income from park department recreational programs and a \$40,000 maintenance contract with the Sanitation District would fund his

department's proposed 10 percent increase.

Fees for recreational programs, though, won't be raised, Ralston said. After an increase in green fees and swimming pool admissions this year, he said income from recreational programs is running ahead of expectations and now underwrites nearly 50 percent of the park department budget.

Among the biggest increases projected for 1983 are salaries, equipment and gasoline. Those increases, Ralston said, partly stem from maintenance work that his department took on for the Sanitation District this year.

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Community Affairs File

Parks' Ralston says his crews can handle additional workload

Parks & Recreation Dept

JUL 19 1982

By SUE LOUGHLIN
Staff Writer

The Terre Haute Park Department has taken on additional responsibilities this year, including a maintenance contract with the Sanitary District, and an expanded summer park program funded with \$35,000 from the Harrison Township Trustee's office.

The park may be taking on one more task — ground maintenance for the Housing Authority.

But Park Superintendent Pat Ralston is confident he can handle the additional load.

"I see it as a lot of work — but it's something that can be accomplished," he said this morning.

Presently, the department has four maintenance-area responsibilities, the two city golf courses and Deming and Dobbs parks, the latter including all other city parks.

The crews handle 1,000 acres with each area headed by a supervisor and having its own staff.

Grounds work for the Housing Authority would mean an additional 40 acres to maintain. Ralston said it would be treated as a fifth maintenance area, complete with its own supervisor and staff.

The contract must still be approved by the Terre Haute Housing Authority's board of commissioners and the City Council.

It would extend from Aug. 1 through the end of the year at a cost of \$24,166. If approved, both parties would then review the arrangement at the end of that time.

After that, the contract could be renewed at an annual rate of \$58,000.

The arrangement would save the housing authority \$52,000 a year, according to acting director Marc Elliott.

Ralston said he would use the money to hire one worker from the Housing Authority maintenance staff, and he would be promoting two workers within the park department staff from hourly wages to salaried positions.

"I've got good people right now who would jump at the chance" of the salaried positions, he said.

Possibly one other salaried employee would be transferred to work at the housing authority and Ralston said that he might use a few hourly and CETA workers for supplemental staff.

Ralston said the park department has 19 salaried ground-maintenance laborers, and 30 hourly workers hired for the summer.

He also employs about five or six CETA workers.

Ralston said he wasn't sure if the contract will be approved by the Housing Authority board of commissioners. "I'm doing it to help out the Housing Authority and the city," he said. He felt that the contract is "the best alternative they've got."

If the contract is approved, Ralston said the department will have reached its capacity. "This is about all we can handle."

The proposed contract with the Housing Authority would include mowing, weed-control and snow, leaf, tree and hazardous limb removal at eight authority projects.

Larry Kirchner, council president, said he is in favor of the contract — as long as it does not place an undue burden on the park department.

"Ralston has done a good job in every responsibility we've given him so far," he said.

Councilman Ray Azar said he has some questions as to the "appropriateness" of the contract, and whether or not the park department can handle the load.

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(Hwy 99)*

City park fees remain

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unchanged for next year

Fees for Terre Haute Park Department activities will stay the same next year, the city's Park Board decided Tuesday.

"We're at the point now where we're paying our bills and we will hold this posture as long as possible," Park Superintendent Patrick Ralston said. "We're obligated to provide the best service at the lowest price so long as we break even."

This year's freeze on fees is the first since Ralston took over the park department, but he said that until now, park activities were running a deficit. Last year, golf course and pool fees rose 25 percent and softball league fees rose 15 percent, he said.

The fee schedule is: \$185 a season for softball teams; \$100 for adult season tickets at Rea Park Golf Course, \$50 for junior tickets, \$60 for senior citizens and \$150 for a husband and wife team; \$215 for adult season tickets at Hulman Links Golf Course, \$115 for junior tickets, and \$130 for senior citizens.

Joint season tickets for both courses are \$250, with discounts to \$150 for juniors and senior citizens and \$100 for senior citizens playing on weekdays.

Pool fees are \$1.25 for adults and \$1 for children.

The Park Board instituted a \$3 an hour fee for adults and \$2 an hour for children for a new cross-country ski rental program at Dobbs Park.

Another first at Tuesday's Park Board meeting was the adoption of a set of goals for 1983.

"We need guidance instead of operating on a shoestring all the time," Ralston said.

The goals include repair to the Rea Park clubhouse, renovation of the Deming Park pool, further improvements at Fairbanks Park, and more paving in Deming Park. Other goals are to begin operation of photography, painting and pottery programs at Dobbs Park and to carry out successfully the city's host duties for the Professional Golf Association's Indiana Open tournament at Hulman Links next summer.

The Park Board also awarded 1983 concession contracts for Deming Park and Hulman Links. The agreement for Hulman Links concessions went to course superintendent David Alumbaugh for the third year in a row and for Deming Park to Louis Ross, also for the third year in a row. Ralston said that state law permits awarding the contracts without bids if they run for a year or less at a time.

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Parks + Recreation (TH)

The Star, Terre Haute, Ind.

Community Affairs File

Wednesday, December 1, 1982 7

No change in fees: Park Board

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